



News for Immediate Release November 4, 2013

Contact:
Ted Thomas, Information Officer – (916) 653-9712
tthomas@water.ca.gov

DWR Underscores Risk, Promotes Awareness during Flood Preparedness Week

California becomes 'Silver Jacket' state; holds flood training exercise and outreach events

SACRAMENTO –California’s vulnerability to flooding creates significant risk to public safety, the environment and the economy. During *California Flood Preparedness Week* (CFPW), Nov. 4-9, the Department of Water Resources and state, federal and local partners aim to educate Californians about flood risk in their communities and ways to prepare for flooding.

To kick off this week-long educational effort, California was today inducted into the Silver Jackets program at a letter signing ceremony in Sacramento. Silver Jackets teams are state-led interagency groups that work together to focus on state priorities to reduce flood risk through increased flood risk communication and improved emergency response processes. Through Silver Jackets, federal, state and local agencies can better coordinate activities that increase public awareness of flood risk.

“Today marks a significant milestone in California’s ongoing efforts to improve flood management and more broadly promote awareness about flood risk,” said Terri Wegener, DWR program manager and lead of California’s Silver Jacket team. “One in five Californians lives in a floodplain and \$580 billion in crops, structures and public infrastructure are exposed to flooding. It is imperative that our communities are aware of their risk so they can prepare themselves and take action should a flood occur.”

As part of *California Flood Preparedness Week*, DWR has also released the final *California’s Flood Future: Recommendations for Managing California’s Flood Risk*, the comprehensive State/Federal report that suggests recommended future actions to improve flood management statewide. Information gathered for the report came from more than 140 public agencies responsible for flood management. The report shows that more work needs to be done to help ensure residents’ safety.

Although California is currently experiencing a relatively dry year, preparations for a devastating

flood are necessary and ongoing. On Nov. 5, DWR will conduct flood fight training to teach emergency response procedures utilized during a flood event. Additional events are also planned throughout the state as 20 counties participate in the second annual CFPW. Examples of these flood awareness events include:

- The cities of Sacramento and Roseville are posting a total of 11 High Water Mark signs throughout both cities to promote awareness of historical high river levels and encourage responsive action.
- Various local cities are hosting flood awareness events and activities for the public.
- Various counties are hosting flood fight trainings.
- The Delta Protection Commission is mailing a flood awareness letter and magnets to Delta residents.
- Ventura County is hosting a mock flood exercise to practice flood emergency response and test equipment and procedures.
- Various local communities have signed proclamations and resolutions declaring November 4-9, 2013, California Flood Preparedness Week

Agencies involved in California Flood Preparedness Week include the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, California Department of Water Resources, Federal Emergency Management Agency, California Office of Emergency Services, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and 20 counties, including the County of Sacramento. For more information about flood risk and how to protect yourself, or to view a list of planned *California Flood Preparedness Week* events and partners, please visit www.water.ca.gov/ca-flood-preparedness/.

To learn more about *California's Flood Future* visit www.water.ca.gov/sfmp.

To learn more about California's Silver Jackets program visit <http://www.nfrmp.us/state/factCalifornia.cfm>.

The Department of Water Resources operates and maintains the State Water Project, provides dam safety and flood control and inspection services, assists local water districts in water management and water conservation planning, and plans for future statewide water needs.